

## Message Text

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ACTION AID-31

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-08 IGA-02 /052 W  
-----078077 220426Z /75

R 211012Z NOV 77  
FM AMEMBASSY DACCA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7135

C O N F I D E N T I A L DACCA 6709

PASS AID

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: EAID BG US  
SUBJECT: PL-480 FOODGRAINS

1. BDG FOOD ADVISOR MOMEN KHAN TACKLED ME AT A RECENT SOCIAL FUNCTION IN HONOR OF THE AGA KHAN AND PRESSED HIS CASE FOR IMMEDIATE NEGOTIATION OF 200,000 TONS OF GRAIN UNDER PL-480 TITLE I. KHAN CLAIMED THAT DR. HUDA HAD BEEN PROMISED THIS DURING HIS VISIT TO WASHINGTON, AND THE BDG WAS CONCERNED THAT WE ARE NOT FOLLOWING THROUGH ON THIS COMMITMENT.

2. I TOLD KHAN THAT I REGRETTED THERE SEEMED TO HAVE BEEN A MISUNDERSTANDING AS A RESULT OF HUDA'S TALKS IN WASHINGTON. HOWEVER, I HAD JUST BEEN IN WASHINGTON AND THERE WAS COMPLETE AGREEMENT BY THE VARIOUS AGENCIES THERE AND BY OUR EMBASSY IN DACCA THAT WE SHOULD PROCEED INITIALLY WITH AGREEMENT FOR 100,000 TONS, LEAVING UNTIL AFTER THE JANUARY FOOD REVIEW MEETING THE FINAL AGREEMENT ON THE REMAINDER. I WENT OVER WITH HIM AGAIN. AS THE EMBASSY AND USAID HAVE SEVERAL TIMES BEFORE, THE PROVISIONS OF THE BELLMON AMENDMENT AND THE REASONS WHY WE BELIEVE IT ESSENTIAL THAT WE HANDLE THE TITLE I PROGRAM THIS YEAR IN TWO TRENCHES.

3. I TOLD KHAN WE WERE AWARE OF THE HIGHLY CONSTRUC-  
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TIVE STEPS TAKEN BY HIS MINISTRY TO IMPROVE THE PROCUREMENT DRIVE THIS YEAR AND THAT THESE MOVES, IF IMPLEMENTED DURING THE DRIVE ITSELF, WOULD OBVIOUSLY HELP CREATE A GOOD ATMOSPHERE DURING THE JANUARY MEETING. ANOTHER FACTOR WOULD BE THE SIZE OF THE AMAN HARVEST. KHAN MENTIONED SEVERAL AREAS IN WHICH THE CROP WAS LIKELY TO FALL BELOW EXPECTATIONS BUT AGREED

THAT, ON BALANCE, IT WOULD PROBABLY BE THE BEST HARVEST  
IN RECENT YEARS.

4. KHAN REITERATED THE PROBLEMS BANGLADESH FACES IN  
TRYING TO ENSURE ORDERLY SUPPLIES OF FOODGRAINS  
(VAGARIES OF WEATHER AND UNCERTAINTY ABOUT FOOD AID  
FROM THE DONORS) AND STRESSED THE POLITICAL IMPORTANCE  
OF ADEQUATE SUPPLIES. FOR THESE REASONS, BANGLADESH  
FELT TWO THINGS WERE ESSENTIAL: ONE MILLION TON STOCK  
LEVEL ON JUNE 30 TO GET THROUGH THE LEAN SEASON AND  
AGREEMENT EARLY IN THE CALENDAR YEAR ON FOOD AID FROM  
VARIOUS DONORS. HE NOTED THAT NEGOTIATIONS FOR PL-480  
GRAIN FREQUENTLY TAKE A LONG TIME. IF WE DO NOT BEGIN  
UNTIL LATE JANUARY, THE SECOND 100,000 TONS MAY WELL  
NOT ARRIVE IN TIME. I REPLIED AS FOLLOWS:

A. REGARDING STOCK LEVELS, I SAID THAT, WHILE  
SOME DONORS BELIEVED A MILLION TONS WAS TOO HIGH, WE  
REGARDED THIS AS A DECISION FOR THE BDG AND WERE NOT  
OPPOSING IT, ASSUMING ADEQUATE STORAGE CAPACITY EXISTED.  
ADEQUATE STORAGE AND HANDLING WERE, HOWEVER, ESSENTIAL  
IF BANGLADESH WAS TO RETAIN THE CONFIDENCE OF DONORS.  
KHAN AGREED.

B. ON THE TIMING FOR OUR SECOND TRANCHE, I SAID  
I WOULD NOT BE HERE AT THAT TIME BUT WOULD RECOMMEND  
THAT WE DO MUCH OF THE PRELIMINARY WORK BEFORE THE  
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JANUARY MEETING SO THAT THE AMENDMENT FOR AN ADDITIONAL  
100,000 TONS COULD, IF THE RESULTS OF THIS MEETING SO  
JUSTIFIED, BE SIGNED QUICKLY. FOR THIS WE WOULD NEED  
CONTINUED CLOSE LIAISON WITH THE FOOD MINISTRY AND  
OTHER ELEMENTS OF THE BDG SO WE WOULD BE AWARE OF THE  
FOODGRAIN SITUATION AS THE TIME FOR THE JANUARY MEETING  
APPROACHED. KHAN PLEDGED HIS FULL COOPERATION.  
MASTERS

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
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**Subject:** PL-480 FOODGRAINS  
**TAGS:** EAID, EAGR, BG, US  
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**Type:** TE  
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